

step S620 receives the printable signal from the printer 30 through the parallel communication I/O interface 19b, the step S640 outputs the printing file written in the RAM 14 or in the hard disk drive 15 to the printer 30 through the parallel communication I/O interface 19b.

In this way, the printing data file outputted to the printer 30 is printed in the print processing shown in Fig. 8, then the status information is offered to the user as an end product shown in the Fig. 4(a). In this embodiment, the status information data starts with the pushing operation of the switch 36, consequently it gets better for the user to obtain the status information whenever the user makes the status information printing request. However, this composition is not necessary at all times. The output initiation instruction of the status information can be stored in the status information memory as part of the status information data. If the host computer is made possible to monitor the stored information in this composition, the host computer can grasp the output initiation instruction, enabling the status information to be printed.

Thus, in this invention, the user enables the printing initiation instruction on the status information to be implemented by the switch 36 on the printer 30 (the printing initiation instruction module 33a and the output initiation instruction monitoring module 21a). With the printing

initiation instruction, the printer 30 and the host computer 20 perform the two-way communication through the parallel communication I/O interfaces 27 and 19b. Through the communication, the status information output module 33C once transmits the status information obtained in the status information acquisition module 33b on the printer 30 to the host computer 20. When the status information acquisition module 21b on the printer obtains the status information on the host computer 20, the printing data output module 21c generates the printing file 50, and then the printing data output module 21d implements the printing job for the printing file 50. Therefore, it is not necessary to equip the processor and the font ROM with the printer 30 to generate the printing data. The status information can be printed on the simple and low-cost printer 30.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

As explained hereinbefore, the status information data on the printer is transmitted to the host computer, on which the printing data is generated based on the status information data. The status information is printed based on the printing data. Therefore, it is not necessary to generate the printing data with the processor on the printer, which enables the printer composition to be simplified.

In accordance with the invention of Claim 2, by generating

the printing data based on the dot image data, the font ROM becomes unnecessary on the printer, the processing based on the page description language in the processor becomes unnecessary, and the printer composition becomes simple. These make an answer to the printer of a low cost model.

In accordance with the invention of Claim 3, the initiation instruction of the status information output can be easily given.

In accordance with the invention of Claim 4, the initiation instruction of the status information output can be easily given.

In accordance with the invention of Claim 5, the user can confirm whether the status information is to be printed in the unprintable state.

In accordance with the invention of Claim 6, the status sheet can accurately show the communication mode at all times.

In accordance with the invention of Claim 7, the processing burden can be mitigated by minimizing the individual image generation processing. Especially the processing of creating the form from the default file can be simplified since it takes advantage of the operating system function.

In accordance with the inventions of Claims 8 to 13, with the processor it is not to generate the printing data, neither is it necessary to perform the processing based on the Page Description Language. The font ROM becomes unnecessary. As a result, the printer composition can be more simplified.